

Message Text

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BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

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SUBJ: PAPANDREOU CLAIMS NEGOTIATIONS WITH TURKEY ARE
PURSUANT TO NATO

REF: ATHENS 2247 (181123Z MAR 78)

1. IN ADDITION TO THE FLAP GENERATED BY PRINCIPAL
OPPOSITION LEADER PAPANDREOU DURING THE PARLIAMENTARY
DISCUSSION MARCH 17 ON THE MONTREUX SUMMIT WHEN HE TABLED
AN ALLEGED STATE DEPARTMENT TELEGRAM CONCERNING THE GREEK-
TURKISH AEGEAN DISPUTE (REFTEL), PAPANDREOU STIMULATED
ANOTHER ARGUMENT WITH THE GOG WHEN HE REFERRED TO WHAT HE
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CALLED "THE RULES OF NATO'S POLITICAL WING" TO SUPPORT
HIS CHARGE THAT GREEK-TURKISH NEGOTIATIONS TO RESOLVE
BILATERAL ISSUES WERE IN FACT NEGOTIATIONS IN A NATO
FRAMEWORK AND THAT ACCEPTANCE OF THOSE RULES SUBORDINATED
GREEK NATIONAL INTERESTS TO NATO INTERESTS.

2. IN ARGUING HIS CASE, PAPANDREOU DREW PARLIAMENT'S

ATTENTION TO WHAT LATER TURNED OUT TO BE THE 1956 "REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THREE ON NON-MILITARY COOPERATION IN NATO" (THE "REPORT OF THE THREE WISE MEN"). HE READ SELECTIVELY FROM CHAPTER II, PARAGRAPH 57 (PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF INTER-MEMBER DISPUTES), SPECIFICALLY SUBPARAGRAPHS (A), (B) AND (C), AND CONCLUDED THAT NATO NOT ONLY CALLS FOR NEGOTIATIONS OUTSIDE THE UN FRAMEWORK, BUT ALSO GIVES PRIORITY TO ALLIANCE INTERESTS RATHER THAN THE NATIONAL INTERESTS OF MEMBER STATES. GREECE, HE SAID, "HAD JOINED THE POLITICAL WING OF NATO IN 1956" AND HAD PLEDGED, BY SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT, TO SETTLE DIFFERENCES BY PEACEFUL MEANS THROUGH NATO MACHINERY, AS WAS NOW TAKING PLACE WITH REGARD TO THE GREEK TURKISH DISPUTE OVER THE AEGEAN. (PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS HAD EARLIER STATED THAT THE SUMMIT MEETING DID NOT INCLUDE SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS.)

3. FOREIGN MINISTER PAPALIGOURAS RESPONDED TO THIS CHARGE IN A STATEMENT ON MARCH 19 IN WHICH HE SAID THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY WAS THE ONLY DOCUMENT THAT EXISTED THAT COULD BE CHARACTERIZED AS ALLIANCE "RULES", AND GREECE HAD ACCEPTED IT IN 1952. THE REPORT OF THE THREE WISE MEN, ON THE OTHER HAND, WAS APPROVED BY THE NAC IN 1956 AND CONTAINED "SUGGESTIONS FOR CONDUCTING SYSTEMATIC POLITICAL DELIVERATIONS THAT WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FACILITATE SETTling EVENTUAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ALLIANCE MEMBERS." IT WAS NOT, HE CLARIFIED, BINDING ON MEMBERS SINCE ITS IMPLEMENTATION IN EACH CASE DEPENDED ON NATIONAL AGREEMENT, AND THUS IT HAD NOT BEEN USED IN THE GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTE. HE CONCLUDED THAT PAPANDREOU HAD ALSO OVERLOOKED THE REQUIREMENT THAT ALLIANCE DECISIONS BE UNANIMOUS, WHICH GIVES EACH MEMBER A VETO TO DEFEND ITS OWN INTERESTS.

4. PAPANDREOU LATER THAT DAY REITERATED HIS CHARGE THAT GREECE HAD SUBORDINATED HER NATIONAL INTERESTS TO THOSE OF THE ALLIANCE WHEN THEN FOREIGN MINISTER AVEROFF HAD ACCEPTED THE 1956 DOCUMENT. HE CALLED FOR THE TEXT TO BE MADE PUBLIC (FAILING TO NOTE IT ALREADY IS).

5. THE FOLLOWING DAY (MARCH 20), PAPALIGOURAS REPEATED THAT NO "REGULATIONS FOR THE ALLIANCE POLITICAL SECTOR" EXIST AND THAT THE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROCEDURE FORMULATED BY THE THREE WISE MEN IS NOT COMPULSORY. THE FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO CHARGED PAPANDREOU WITH "CREATING A STIR" BY USING "INADMISSABLE METHODS",

WHEREUPON PAPANDREOU REBUTTED BY RESTATING HIS CHARGES
AND ADDING THAT, ALTHOUGH A "HYPOTHETICAL" VETO RIGHT
EXISTS, HE WANTED TO BE TOLD WHEN GREECE HAD
EXERCISED ITS VETO.
MCCLOSKEY

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